DUBUQUE COUNTY LIBRARY

COURT HOUSE
DUBUQUE, IOWA

November 18th, 1952.

Miss Betty Hagge, Librarian,
Scott County Library,
Eldridge, Iowa.

Dear Betty:

Thank you for your long letter. But I don't seem to have at all time to do the things that I should.

Could you please send to me before the first of December the interpretation by the attorney general's office about the item how the money is collected and who sends the towns the information etc. As we are having some difficulty with the money coming in.

Could you also tell us, as far as the sub-stations in the towns are concerned how do you decide about the rent or a remuneration to the attendant?

I am always asking you for help and I am sorry to trouble you so much.

Someone tells me that Opal Tanner is to be married, soon, did you hear anything about it.

I am hoping that you will find time to answer this soon.

Best wishes,
Catherine.
Catherine.

November 20, 1952

Dear Catherine,

Enclosed are the copies of the attorney-general's interpretations of the library law which we have received to date. I have marked the passages which I think you're particularly interested in. However, upon careful rereading I find that the interpretation does not say in so many words "the county auditor's office shall break down the estimate as sent in dollars to each levying body into the proportionate share of each". However, we've had no difficulty from our auditor's office on that score. The thing to keep track of in arguing the matter is that phrase "estimate shall be transmitted in dollars to the several boards and to the several city and town councils within the taxing district". That's all the library board has to do - submit the dollars and cents figure of the total budget needed to run the library during the next year. We have then made an appointment with the board of supervisors for some time during the period when they are considering the askings of all the county departments and have gone to them at that time with a break-down of our budget - I've always made copies so that each supervisor has one - and explained the items in the budget and answered any questions they might have as to why we need this much in this item, etc. I believe that is only good business on our part and theirs. I don't blame them for not wanting to put out thousands of dollars for something they know absolutely nothing about. When they understand the meaning of the various items and their questions are satisfactorily answered, I believe you'll find little difficulty. But you must have the answers for them, and have a good case for your requests.

It seemed an impossible task to us to get to all the town council meetings at the time they were dicussing their budgets - since they all do it at about the same time - so I prepared some figures for each town and sent them to the clerks. I took the circulation figures for the year in that specific town and multiplied that figure by the average cost of a single book if one were to buy it at a book store. The result indicates the dollar value of the books read in that community. Then along side of that figure, I showed the figure in dollars and cents that that town actually paid into the county library fund. Another interesting figure I showed in the next column was the actual cost of each book circulated, in terms of purchase, in relation to what they paid. For instance: a town pays $750.00 into the library fund; 2370 books are circulated in that town during the year. Each book read cost a little more than 31¢. ~~Another way of looking it is to multiply the circulation~~ There, you see, you have the market value, at $3.00 a book, of the books read, and the actual cost of the book in terms of towns' contributions to the whole. To each town, I gave only that town's figures.

You ask about arriving at rent paid for stations and remuneration to station attendants.

We have a salary and wage scale which we follow. We have set the hourly wage rate at 75¢. That, I belive, is the minumum set by the government. Using that as a starting place each area will have to be guided by the going rate for clerical work of a simple type in that area. We pay what-rent is required by the owner. You may have to bargain for your best deal possible. What we pay depends, too, on what we pay for. In one case we pay rent, heat, and light; in the other, the rent includes the heat and light; naturally, we pay less in the first case than in the second. In the other two stations, the room is furnished by the city council - in their council chambers. They have been heating and lighting it for us, too; but beginning with the new year, we plan to pay something for utilities in those two places. Those things, of course, all have to be planned for in advance of turning in your budget estimates.

I hope that this information will be helpful to you in ironing out your difficulties.

I know nothing of Opal's plans. Sorry.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Hage
Librarian

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